

REMARKS

Amendment

Claims 75, 76, 78, 79, and 82-98 were pending before the Examiner for examination at the issuance of the Final Office Action dated December 22, 2006. Claim 98 has been amended to depend from claim 97 to reflect the proper claim dependency. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment as the amendment to claim 98 does not affect the scope of the claims on appeal.

No additional search or examination is necessitated by the amendment, nor is any substantial amount of additional work required on the part of the Patent Office or the Examiner. It is Applicants' understanding that this Amendment complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 since this Amendment is filed before or on the same date of filing an appeal and presents rejected claim 98 in better form for consideration on appeal. 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 (b)(2).

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was filed on December 19, 2006. To date, Applicants have not received an initialed copy of the 1449 forms filed with the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. On February 27, 2007, the undersigned spoke with Examiner Vivmore about this matter, and she indicated she would consider the documents cited in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and include the initialed 1449 forms with the next Communication to the Applicants.

As the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was filed before the Final Office Action was issued (i.e., mail date of Final Office Action was December 22, 2006), Applicants request that the Examiner review the documents and provide us with an initialed copy of the 1449 forms.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendment. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8:

The undersigned hereby certifies that the paper(s), as described hereinabove, are being transmitted via the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office electronic filing system in accordance with 37 CFR §1.6(a)(4) to the Patent and Trademark Office addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 22 day of January, 2008, at 2:35pm (Central Time).

By:

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